

AF FORM 112-PAR

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COUNTRY <i>c/Sonly</i> GERMANY	REPORT NO. 52B-E-10230	(LEAVE BLANK) <i>EO 146825</i>
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT SOCIO-POLITICAL INFORMATION BY NEWLY-RETURNED GERMAN PWs		Interviewer: HANSEN, Robert (FN) Editor: DIPALMA
AREA REPORTED ON TAYSHET, BRATSKI, USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAFE)
DATE OF REPORT 22 Jul 54 and 23 Jul 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Dec 51 to Dec 53	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN, Lt.Col., USAF		SOURCE 226138
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Rpt 52B-E-10256; HICOG		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
<p><b>A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION.</b></p> <p>1. S was born on 8 Mar 29 in LIEGNITZ (5112N/1612E).        Education: 8 yrs elementary school.        Occupation: Farmer.        S could express himself in Russian quite fluently.</p> <p>2. In Oct 51, S was convicted by Soviet Military Authorities in POTSDAM (5224 N/1304E) to 25 yrs forced labor for distribution of leaflets, which were brought in illegally from Western GERMANY into SZG. In Nov 51 he arrived in a transit prison in TAYSHET (5557N/9802E), and was transferred to Forced Labor Camp # 011 in VIKHAREVKA (approx 5602N/10120E) about 40km W of BRATSKI (5605N/10140E). From Dec 51 to Dec 53, S worked here as constr laborer. He had no contact with Russian civilians except a few truck drivers. In Dec 53, S was released under an amnesty. He was transferred to a PW camp in ALMAZNOYE (4831N/3835E), and was repatriated in Jan 54 to Western GERMANY.</p> <p>3. S was cooperative. His ability to remember details was quite good. There were no inconsistencies in S's statements.</p> <p><b>B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS.</b></p> <p>4. Most of the prisoners of the Camp # 011 were USSR citizens, but there were also foreigners, such as: Czechs, Poles, Spaniards, Hungarians, Latvians, Koreans and one American. As they were political prisoners they were all opposed to the Soviet regime.</p> <p>One of the prisoners, SHANETSKI, Vassili Jakovlevich, a former Soviet pilot, who had stayed in the USA for some time during WW II, was convicted to 25 yrs forced labor because he was considered an unreliable element. A considerable number of prisoners had been arrested in 45/46 and sentenced to 25 yrs hard labor for "passing espionage info about the USSR to foreign agencies". Their only fault was that they had followed Soviet orders to work for Allied Agencies in the USSR during WW II such as the British Military Mission in ARKHANGELSK (6434N/4032E). Such prisoners told S that the Soviet authorities simply wanted to isolate them.</p> <p>S was witness of an incident, which occurred on 15 Aug 53 in the vicinity of the Camp # 011, showing certain anti-Soviet trends within the UKRAINIAN population. A group of prisoners marched from the constr site to the camp on a road, which led parallel to the RR line from TAYSHET to BRATSKI, when they saw a train with Soviet infantry going in the E direction. The soldiers recognized the prisoners and forced the locomotive driver to stop the train. Then they jumped from the train and ran to the prisoners with bread and tobacco in their hands. In vain the 12 MVD guards shot into the air, but could not stop the infantry soldiers from giving food and tobacco to the prisoners. These soldiers, who were Ukrainians</p>		
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even threatened that they also "knew how to shoot with their rifles". S noticed that the Ukrainian soldiers sympathized greatly with the political prisoners, while their remarks showed their deep dislike of the MVD. A number of MVD officers rushed from the nearby camp to the scene, forced the soldiers back to the train, and after the train had moved away, took all gifts from the prisoners.

## C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF STALIN.

13. Early in Jun 53, a Korean, who was known in the Camp as a fortune-teller, predicted that there will be a "small war in GERMANY which, however, will not last longer than 24 hrs". Most of the prisoners believed and discussed openly that there will probably a conflict between the USSR and the USA on German territory, and that the USA will win the struggle within 24 hrs with her atomic bombs. They were disappointed when they heard 14 days later about the crushed revolt in East GERMANY on 17 Jun 53.

## E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS.

23. The forced labor camps in the area of TAYSHET had the postal # "MOSKVA 511/37". S heard from Russian prisoners that 52 camps were located along RR line from TAYSHET to BRATSKI. Every one of these accommodated usually 800 to 1,000 prisoners. Five of them for women. The male prisoners had no contact with women. Homosexuality was usually the habit of the less hard-working group among camp inmates. Most prisoners worked on railway constr and at wood-cutting. The norm for wood-cutting was 7 cubic meters for each worker in 8 hrs. The prisoners worked 9-10 hrs in Summer and 5-6 hrs in Winter. They had identification numbers on their clothing (black figures on a white piece of linen). According to S the following numbering system consisting of the letters of the Russian alphabet combined with Arabic numerals was used:

The first 1,000 prisoners in the TAYSHET area in 1945 were numbered from A1 to A1,000, the next 1,000 from B1 to B1,000. When thus the alphabet was used up, the numbering started with AA1 to AA1,000, then AB1 to AB1,000 and so forth.

S, who arrived in TAYSHET in Dec 51 was issued the number AL427. Prisoners that arrived in May 53 already were in the "OP"-category. Thus, camp-inmates were able to estimate the approx number of prisoners that passed thru TAYSHET central distribution camp. If a prisoner died or was released his number was abandoned. The prisoners were accommodated in wooden barracks with barred windows; 75 men in one. The barracks were locked during the night. During the period from Dec 51 to Dec 53, S heard of several attempts of escape, but they all ended tragically.

24. S gave the following info regarding 2 non-Soviet prisoners:

One was an American. His first name was Jim (family name unkn), 35-38 yrs old, 180cm tall, brunette. The right side of his face was purple, either due to scalding, injury or disease. He was intelligent and knew 5 languages: English, German, French, Czech and Hungarian. He related in the Camp that he was a USAF pilot and that he had flown several attacks against BERLIN (5231N/1324E). A German PW, former pilot of the LUFTWAFFE, told S that all what the American said seemed to be true. Jim was arrested in the Soviet Sector of VIENNA (4812N/1622E) in 1949 and was convicted to 25 yrs for espionage. He was already in the Camp # 011 in Dec 51 when S arrived there. In Nov 53, Jim was transferred from Camp # 011, probably to OMSK (5500N/7324E) together with 160 forced laborers of different nationalities (Russians, Latvians, Hungarians, etc.). Jim received no mail and was not allowed to write letters himself.

The other was a Czech. He arrived in Camp # 011 in Jul 53. His name was ZABOTNIK or SABOTNIK, Eduard, about 28 yrs old, 165cm tall, brunette, wore spectacles. He was arrested in the Soviet Sector of VIENNA probably in 1952 or 1953. In 1953, he was inmate of the LUBJANKA Jail in MOSKVA (5545N/3735E), where he was convicted to 25 yrs forced labor. From MOSKVA he was transferred to the Camp # 011. He was very intelligent and spoke 11 languages. His father was chief of police (where unkn). Before S left the Camp # 011, the Czech asked S to visit

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French Authorities in BERLIN and inform them of his whereabouts.. He gave him an address written on cigarette paper, which S sewed into his padded jacket. Before repatriation S had to turn in his old clothing, received new clothing instead, and thus lost the address.

25. Until Nov 52, the Camp was unofficially under the ruthless rule of a certain group of prisoners called "BLATNOYS" (S's spelling). They did not work, but capitalized on the other inmates and on the guards. They did not refrain from killing anyone, guard or prisoner to maintain their terrorist regime. S related that on one occasion, when one of the BLOATNOYS had become angry with a guard, they had a meeting and played cards to determine who was to kill this guard. The loser had the choice of killing the guard or being killed himself. In their code of honor, fear was not tolerated within the BLATNOY. Should one man show fear, he was immediately killed as being not fit to be a BLATNOY, and therefore had to be disposed of. The guard was killed sometime later. S heard that this also occurred in other camps.

After Nov 52, the degree of such killings was lessened due to the decree, which all prisoners had to sign, stating that henceforth the death sentence would be imposed on every killer. However, they still maintained their control by terror in the camp, and both guards and prisoners feared them. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the BLATNOY was tattoos on the upper portion of the body. S further stated, that he knew of no communication between the BLATNOYS and other camps or the outside. Their attitude towards the USA can be best illustrated by the events, which occurred after STALIN's death (refer to Para C, 13).

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